

URGENT ACTION

ANOTHER DEATH THREAT TO DEFENDERS

Around 80 human rights defenders were named in a death threat delivered by the Black Eagles paramilitaries in the Memory, Peace and Reconciliation Centre (Centro de Memoria, Paz y Reconciliación) in the Municipality of Bogotá. Since September there have been several mass death threats to human rights defenders in Colombia.

On 9 December an unknown individual handed over a written death threat to a human rights defender in the Memory, Peace and Reconciliation Centre (Centro de Memoria, Paz y Reconciliación) in Bogotá, the capital.

The death threat came on a leaflet which bore the logo of the Black Eagles (Águilas Negras) paramilitary group and was titled "Eviction Plan Bang Bang Bang" (*Plan Desalojo Punpunpun*). The leaflet bore the names of several human rights defenders belonging to the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (Movimiento Nacional de Víctimas de Crímenes del Estado, MOVICE) including: **Alfonso Castillo**, Director of the Colombian Association of Solidarity Aid (Asociación Nacional de Ayuda Solidaria, ANDAS); **Camilo Álvarez**, of Sons and Daughters for Memory and against Impunity (Hijos e Hijas por la Memoria y contra la Impunidad) and staff working for parliamentarians who have campaigned on human rights issues.

The death threat declared those on the list and their families to be "military targets".

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:

- Expressing concern for the safety of those threatened and urging the authorities to immediately provide effective protection for them in accordance with their wishes and needs;
- Calling on the authorities to order a full and impartial investigation into the death threats, publish the results and bring those responsible to justice;
- Reminding them to fulfil their obligation to protect human rights defenders, as set out in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders;
- Urging the authorities to take action against paramilitary forces and break any links between them and the security forces, in line with repeated UN recommendations.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 26 JANUARY 2015 TO:

President

Juan Manuel Santos
 Presidente de la República
 Palacio de Nariño, Carrera 8 No.7-26
 Bogotá, Colombia
 Fax: +57 1 596 0631

**Salutation: Dear President Santos/
 Excmo Sr Presidente Santos**

Attorney General

Eduardo Montealegre
 Fiscalía General de la Nación
 Diagonal 22B No. 52-01 (Ciudad Salitre)
 Bloque C Piso 4
 Bogotá, Colombia

Fax: +57 1 570 2000 (when recorded
 voice answers, dial ext 2023)

Salutation: Dear Attorney General/

**Estimado Sr. Fiscal General
 And copies to:**

NGO
 MOVICE
 Calle 45 No 20-21
 Bogotá, Colombia

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA: 229/14. Further information:
<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR23/033/2014/en>

**AMNESTY
 INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

During the long-running armed conflict in Colombia, human rights defenders, as well as Indigenous, Afro-descendant and peasant farmer communities, have endured the brunt of the conflict. All the warring parties – the security forces, either alone or in collusion with paramilitary groups, and the guerrilla forces – are responsible for abuses and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including killings, enforced disappearances or abductions, torture, forced displacement and crimes of sexual violence.

The security forces and paramilitary groups have frequently labelled members of human rights organizations and trade unions as guerrilla collaborators or supporters, and have gone on to threaten, abduct or kill them. Numerous human rights defenders have been killed after being labelled guerrilla sympathizers. Guerrillas have also threatened and killed human rights defenders. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia some 40 human rights defenders were killed in the first nine months of 2014. The NGO Somos Defensores estimated that at least 70 human rights defenders, including community, Indigenous and Afro-descendant leaders, were killed in 2013. The National Trade Union School (Escuela Nacional Sindical, ENS) reported that 27 members of trade unions were killed in 2013. Land activists and those working on impunity have been particularly vulnerable to attacks. These attacks, as well as the misuse of the legal system to bring bogus charges against human rights defenders and the theft of sensitive information from NGO offices, continue to undermine the work of human rights organizations.

The Colombian state has a protection programme which provides security to thousands of individuals at risk, including human rights defenders. However, this programme continues to suffer from serious weaknesses. For example, the effectiveness of this programme will continue to be limited as long as the perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses remain confident that they will not be brought to justice.

Names: Alfonso Castillo (m), Camilo Álvarez (m) and Colombian human rights defenders
Gender m/f: both

Further information on UA: 229/14 Index: AMR 23/036/2014 Issue Date: 15 December 2014